

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 5, 6 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1, 9 and 11-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 15-22 have been added. Accordingly, claims 2-8, 10 and 15-22 are currently pending in the application.

Drawings

PTO-948 Form Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review was not attached to the Office Action mailed September 10, 2003. Applicants request that a copy of this form be included with the next Office Action so that they may attend to any deficiencies therein.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the certified priority document.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 2 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection under this section. Claim 3 is dependent upon claim 2, and claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the

undersigned by telephone if any further clarification is needed.

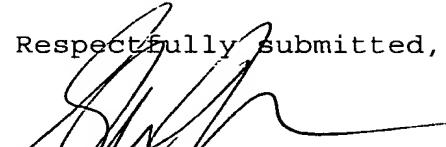
35 U.S.C. §103

All the rejected claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite the issuance of allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Shantanath Malur  
Registration No. 34,663  
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR  
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-1120  
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